April 2014

**The Gospel of Your Salvation**

                I have often wondered why so many denominational preachers can deliver a very good scriptural message but fail to clearly present the Gospel of **their** salvation.  I suppose some may feel that there is no need to present the Gospel of salvation each time they speak.  Wow!  Tell that to the lost souls on their way out the door .

                Something else that concerns me is the pastor who believes that he has preached the Gospel but actually has not.  He quotes verses like John 3:16 and tells his audience “whosoever believeth in Him” shall be saved; or John 3:18 “He that believeth on Him is not condemned;”  or  John 6:47 “He that believeth on me hath everlasting life;”  These verses are all wonderful and applicable today ONLY if we look at them with a complete understanding of the Pauline Gospel.  For the poor lost soul setting in the audience, he/she has no idea what these verses mean or exactly what needs to be done in order to be reconciled to God.   Sadly he/she may have heard that “you need to repent” and/or “ask God to come into your heart.”  Of course, you won’t find any scriptural support for either of those commands presented  in any of the epistles written by the apostle to the Gentiles.

                If the pastor is “really on,” the poor lost soul might hear that “Christ died on the cross for all of our sins.”  However, if that’s where the sermon ends, we still leave with **NO clear presentation** of the “Gospel of Your Salvation.”  Why?  Don’t they know what it is?  The answer lies in their (pastors) unwillingness to study the Holy Spirit inspired epistles written by the Apostle Paul.  They fail to rightly divide the Word of Truth (2Timothy 2:15, 16) and they fail to nourish believers into becoming **ambassadors for Christ**.  That should be no surprise. If one fails to deliver a clear presentation of “The Gospel of Your Salvation,” then how could anyone expect one to nourish the Body with the Truths of scripture?

                Have you ever wondered why so many churches seem to be struggling to find purpose or direction?  Sadly, today, churches have been more concerned with numbers, programs, music, money, building programs, and social events at the expense of sound doctrinal teaching found in the epistles written directly to us.  We know that the entire Bible is for our learning but the doctrinal learning comes from the epistles written to us by the apostle Paul.

                Ephesians 1:13 states “ In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye **believed**, ye were **sealed** with that Holy Spirit of promise.”  And what is the Gospel of Your salvation? 1 Corinthians 15:1-4 “ Moreover brethren, I declared unto you **the Gospel** which I preached unto you, which also you have received, and where in ye stand; by which also **ye are saved** if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you unless ye have **believed** in vain.  For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; and that He was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures.”  It does not get any clearer.  Salvation is given to those who **believe** that Jesus died on the cross for their sins, was buried and rose again on the third day.  May we all pray that God will touch the hearts and open the eyes of those pastors who truly seek the Truth of the Word and that they will have the courage to share it with their congregations.

Yours in Christ!

Phil